

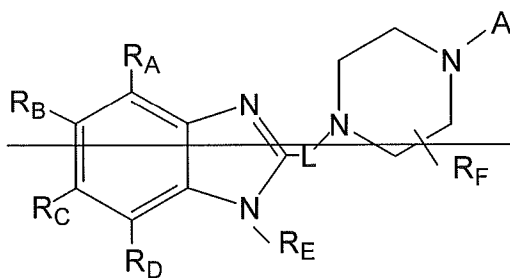
Amendments to the claims marked-up version

Claims 90-102 are pending. Claims 90, 91, 94, 95, 98 and 99 are rejected. Claims 90, 91, 94, 95, 98 and 99 are cancelled. Claims 92, 93, 96, 97, 100, 101 and 102 are amended.

The following list of claims will replace prior versions and listing of claims in the application:

1. – 89. Cancelled

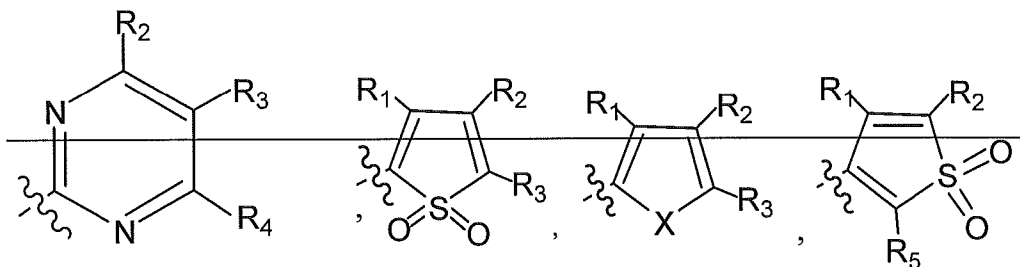
90. (Cancelled) ~~A compound of formula (II)~~



(II)

~~or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester, or amide thereof, wherein~~

~~A is selected from the group consisting of~~



~~X is selected from the group consisting of NH, O and S;~~

~~L is selected from the group consisting of CH₂, CH₂CH₂, CH₂CH₂CH₂ and CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂;~~

~~R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄ and R₅ are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkoxy, alkenyl, alkyl, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylthio, alkynyl, alkoxy carbonyl, alkyl carbonyl, alkyl carbonyloxy, carboxy, cyano, formyl, halogen, haloalkoxy, haloalkyl, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, mercapto, nitro, NZ₁Z₂~~

and(NZ₁Z₂)carbonyl wherein Z₁ and Z₂ are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylsulfonyl and formyl;

R_A, R_B, R_C and R_D are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkoxy, alkenyl, alkyl, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylthio, alkynyl, alkoxy carbonyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylcarbonyloxy, carboxy, cyano, formyl, halogen, haloalkoxy, haloalkyl, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, mercapto, nitro, NZ₁Z₂ and (NZ₁Z₂)carbonyl;

R_E is hydrogen; and

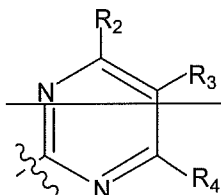
R_F is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and alkyl;

91. (Cancelled) The compound according to claim 90 wherein

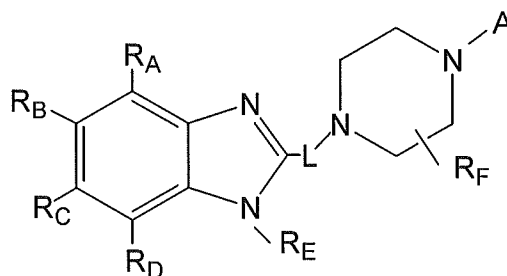
R_A, R_B, R_C and R_D are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and halogen;

and

A is



92. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (I)



(I)

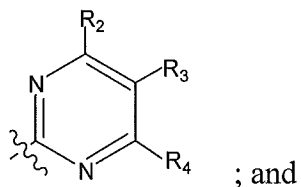
wherein

R_A, R_B, R_C and R_D are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and halogen;

R_F and R_E are hydrogen;

L is CH₂;

A is

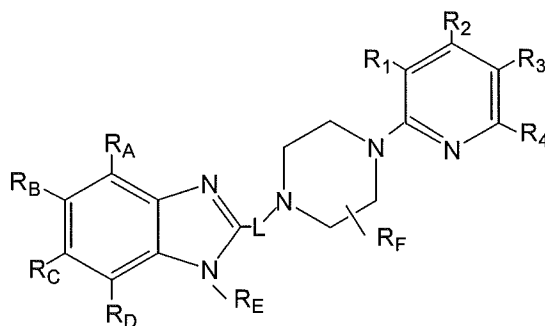


R₂, R₃ and R₄ are each hydrogen.

93. (Previously Amended) The compound according to claim 92 that is 2-[(4-pyrimidin-2-yl)piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-1H-benzimidazole.

94. n,

96. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (II)



(II)

wherein

R₁, R₂ and R₄ are each hydrogen;

R₃ is hydroxy;

L is CH₂;

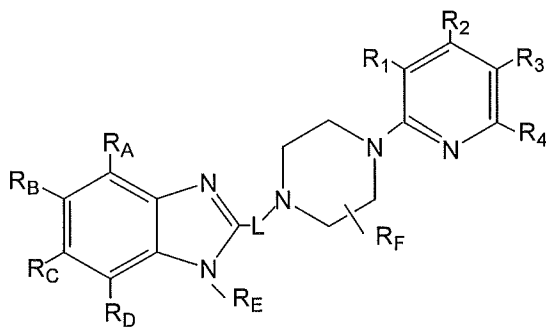
R_A, R_B, R_C and R_D are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and halogen;

and

R_F and R_E are hydrogen.

97. (Previously Amended) The compound according to claim 96 that is 6-[4-(1H-benzimidazol-2-ylmethyl)piperazin-1-yl]pyridin-3-ol.

100. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (II)



(II)

wherein

R₁, R₂, R₃ and R₄ are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and alkylsulfonylamino;

L is CH₂;

R_F and R_E are hydrogen; and

R_A, R_B, R_C and R_D are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and halogen.

101. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 100 wherein

R₂, R₃ and R₄ are each hydrogen; and

R₁ is alkylsulfonylamino;

102. (Previously Amended) The compound according to claim 101 that is N-{2-[4-(1H-benzimidazol-2-ylmethyl)piperazin-1-yl]pyridin-3-yl}methanesulfonamide.

103. – 113. Cancelled